

Myles Standish State Forest Red Pine Removal/Pine Barrens Restoration
Public Meeting
October 3, 2013

16 public attendees

- Will DCR to put power point presentation on DCR website?

The PowerPoint presentation has been posted.

- Do all trees go out as chips?

Most of the trees will be chipped. We will be giving the potential buyers an estimate on how many trees may be sawlogs, but it is a subset of the total. Ultimately, it is up to the buyer on what product is produced.

- Will this project generate revenue for the state?

It is our hope that it will, but it will depend on market prices and what potential buyers think the trees will be worth.

- If there are no bids, what is the next step?

We will have to pay for the red pine to be removed, taking the lowest bid. It may delay the sale until we can solidify funding.

- Is there a known figure for the removal project?

It is hard to give a precise number as ultimately it is up to the potential buyers on what they think the trees are worth and what the markets will pay. For example, a hurricane or major storm could put a lot of chips into the market and drive down bids for this project.

- Can you show a map detailing the infected area?

All plantations in the state forest are affected to some degree.

- Concern for the trees in the Federal Furnace area-(erosion, wildlife, habitat and buffer zone)

The Federal Furnace lot does pose some unique challenges. We hope to meet with the abutters to this lot in the near future to discuss different approaches to removing the red pine. A concern of DCR's is the right-of-ways through the state forest and the potential they could be blocked as the red pine trees continue to die and start to fall over.

- What is the time frame of the project?

We hope to start sometime in December and continue through the winter, and finishing the project before the recreational season starts in the spring.

- Will the forest in its entirety be closed off/shut down to the public or just specified areas?

No, areas will be closed off where work is occurring and reopened as work is finished.

- Are all the pockets of trees that are infected accessible or will there be destruction of the forest to access the isolated pockets of the infected trees?

The vast majority of plantations are adjacent to a forest road, as the state forest has a great road network. Small isolated plantations not near any roads, trails, bike paths, will not be harvested.

- When the project is put out to bid to contractors- will all contractors be required to have a feller buncher machine?

Bidders will not necessarily have to have a feller buncher, but we will require machinery that can physically take hold of the trees to allow them to be controlled in such a way as to protect other trees and resources.

- Is seasonality a concern for the project?

Doing the project in the winter time will reduce spreading of the red pine scale and is in the off-season in regard to most recreational activities.

- How species specific is the Red Pine Scale?

Red pine scale affects other non-native pine species, but does not affect the native white pine or pitch pine.

- Are there any plans to leave some dead trees for habitat?

Yes, some red pines will be left for habitat.

- Are there any infected areas within the campground areas in the forest?

There is a small strip of red pine near Charge pond as well as a small plantation near a campsite in one of the Fearing Pond campgrounds. There are also a few red pines near a campsite at the back end of the Barrett Pond campground.

- What is killing the trees leading into Charge Pond Campground area?

It is hard to say now that the trees are dead. I believe it may have been the red pine scale as those trees I believe are red pine.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING, 6:00 PM OCTOBER 16, 2013 – TOWN HALL, ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Meeting Attendees:

Three members of the general public attended the meeting, two from the Templeton area and one from Warwick

DCR attendees: Peter Church, William Hill, Joelle Vautour, Michael Gieryk, Frank Buntin, Keith DiNardo.

Introduction:

Peter Church, Director of Forest Stewardship gave a brief overview of the public process that gives the public an opportunity to learn about and comment on forestry projects on state lands in the Division of State Parks and Recreation. He then introduced the two proposed forest management projects in Templeton State Forest and Warwick State Forest respectively that were the focus of this meeting.

Presentation:

Joelle Vautour, Management Forester, Mid State District presented information on the proposed forest management project in the “Hadley Aiken Lot” of the Templeton State Forest which is a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) plantation. Joelle gave an overview of the project and area discussing history, soils, wetlands and water resources, cultural features and previous forestry treatments. She then discussed goals as outlined in the project proposal document including improving roads and access, addressing off road vehicle issues; silviculture/proposed forestry treatments and it’s affect on the currently dense red pine plantation.

Presentation:

Michael Gieryk, Assistant Management Forester, Eastern CT Valley District presented information on the proposed forest management project in the Warwick State Forest. He gave an overview of the project area which is part of a former CCC camp, forestry work camp, and minimum security prison facility. Mike discussed history, soils, wetlands and water resources, cultural resources, past forestry treatments, current condition of the forest stands, the poor condition of the forest roads due to off road vehicle use and illegal dumping in the area. The presentation finished by covering the goals for improving roads and access, addressing off road vehicle issues; silviculture/proposed forestry treatments and expected affect on the present forest condition.

There were six main questions/comments from the public audience attending:

1. Question: How will you access the Hadley Aiken Lot area; which specific roads will you use?

Answer: The plan is to use the easement existing on George Paul’s property as the major access to the area while improving access from other directions during the timber sale activity.

2. Question: What is the logging system that is planned for the Hadley Aiken Lot?

Answer: Mostly cut to length system with a forwarder but some other system may be needed because of some areas of steeper slopes that may preclude a cut to length harvester.

3. Comment: (Following the above answer) Please consider using a whole tree harvesting system as that would be more common for the local loggers near Templeton.
4. Comment: Timber harvesting activity during the winter should take priority over the snowmobile use of the Hadley Aiken Lot. The management of the State Forest and the economic activity that it generates should take precedence over snowmobile use for this short period of time. BUT, please be respectful of the snowmobile users by making sure trails and roads are cleared of debris throughout the harvesting time period AND coordinate with the local snowmobile groups communicating the timing of logging activity.
5. Question: Do you know the history of the cellar hole in the Warwick Project Area?

Answer: No.

6. Question: Does the Metacomet Trail pass through the Warwick project area?

Answer: No, it passes to the north of the project area.

Public Meeting for Forest Management Projects
October Mountain, Dubuque and Sandisfield State Forests
DCR Western Regional Headquarters, Pittsfield, MA
October 23, 2013, 6:00 pm

Present

Public:	Andy McKeever	AMcKeever@iBerkshires.com
	Doug Bruce	dbruce@bnrc.net
	Dicken Crane	dickencrane@mac.com
DCR	Peter Church	
	Conrad Ohman	
	Jeff Martin	
	Kris Massini	
	Nick Anzuoni	
	David Goodwin	

Presentation

1. Peter Church introduced the projects and the process
2. Conrad Ohman presented the York Lake Lot project at Sandisfield SF
3. Kris Massini presented the Schoolhouse Lot project at October Mountain SF
4. Nick Anzuoni presented the Kings Corner Lot at Dubuque SF

Questions/Responses

1. Doug Bruce asked Conrad about the spruce along Route 57, noting that the public may have concerns when they hear about this project due to aesthetic concerns. Conrad agreed but said it was a project that needed to be done for public safety. Peter Church said there would be a lot of public outreach to minimize the concerns.
2. Doug Bruce asked all presenters how they expected to deal with the beech trees.
 - a. Kris said we will spray the beech once after one or two growing seasons.
 - b. Conrad said there would be some spraying of the stump sprouts but it was a difficult process.
3. Doug Bruce asked Kris if he has worked with Jane Winn from BNRC on baseline wildlife tracking on the Sherlock Lot. Kris said they met last Saturday to discuss this.
4. Doug Bruce asked Kris if the bridge for his project would have an open bottom design. Kris said it would and would also have stone abutments.
5. Doug Bruce asked why the projects would have staggered entries.
 - a. Kris said he wasn't staggering the entries on his project.
 - b. Nick expected there would be two separate entries because of the layout of the project area and that economics might dictate otherwise.
 - c. Conrad said the site was too big for one entry and that there just wasn't enough time since the activity would be limited to just the winter months.

Additional Comments

1. Kris mentioned that the public comment period would be extended to the end of the month beyond the October 18th date listed since the public meeting dates were later than originally expected.
2. Peter discussed the process for these projects moving forward
3. Dicken Crane said that it was hard sometimes due to the public's limited understanding of forestry but expected DCR should see support for hazard tree removal along road corridors.
4. Nick added that it helps local and state budgets too harvest the trees while still relatively healthy and get value from them rather than wait until they fall down and have to deal with them on an emergency basis.
5. Dicken said that it was a risk to do high visibility projects like this.
6. Nick said conditions change so these projects may need to be changed to reflect these new situations.

Meeting wrapped up at 7:00 pm

Notes taken by David Goodwin